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Ministry of Forests and Range
Tatla Resource Association
Alexis Creek Indian Band (Tsi Del Del)

ALEXIS CREEK FIRST NATION RECEIVES FORESTRY INVITATION

ALEXIS CREEK – The Alexis Creek First Nation (Tsi Del Del) and the Tatla Resource Association have been invited to jointly apply for a probationary community forest agreement, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"Community forest agreements have been developed to provide small licence holders like the Alexis Creek First Nation and the Tatla Resource Association with new options in economic development and local resource management," Coleman said.

The community forest agreement carries an initial five-year term, and would grant the licensees the right to harvest up to 40,000 cubic metres of timber per year on public forest lands in the Williams Lake timber supply area. Community forest tenures are area-based, and give communities exclusive rights to harvest timber, as well as the opportunity to manage forest resources such as timber and plant products, recreation, wildlife, water and scenic viewscapes.

"Tsi Del Del Enterprises has been a growing source of employment and pride since it formed 15 years ago," said Chief Ervin Charleyboy of the Alexis Creek Indian Band. "A community forest agreement will stimulate continued growth for both Tsi Del Del Enterprises, the Alexis Creek First Nation and surrounding communities."

"I want to thank the people that put this together and spent a lot of time on it," Chief Charleyboy added. "I am grateful to Joyce and Gene Cooper, Brian Hanson, Phil Theriault and Rick Careless from Tsi Del Del, the Tatla Group, Ministry of Forests and Range staff and Minister Rich Coleman for approving the licence."

"This is an invitation to a process that will balance the ecological, economic, forestry and tourism perspectives," said David King, President, Tatla Resource Association. "A community forest agreement will encourage environmental and economic stability for the area and its residents. We look forward to continued partnership with the Alexis Creek Indian Band and developing economic and social benefits for the Tsi Del Del and community of Tatla Lake."

Tsi Del Del Enterprises is a forest products company, owned jointly by the Alexis Creek Indian Band and Tolko Industries Ltd.

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Probationary community forest agreements are a form of legal tenure by which the Province allows communities to more fully participate in the stewardship of local Crown forest resources. They are intended to stimulate long-term employment, forest-related education and skills training as well as other social, environmental and economic benefits while meeting environmental stewardship standards. After an initial five-year term, the agreements may be replaced with a long-term agreement for 25 to 99 years.

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Media contact:

Jennifer McLarty
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Forests and Range
250 387-4592

David King
President
Tatla Resource Association
250 476-1295

Chief Ervin Charleyboy
Alexis Creek Indian Band (Tsi Del Del)
250 481-3335

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